

ON THE WEDDING JOURNEY.

The Trip of Newly-Wedded People a Very Necessary Part of the Proceedings.

The Destination and Route Now Kept a Secret by All Concerned.

The Admired Bridal Chamber in Hotel and a Steamer Now a Thing of the Past.

So far as the modern fashionable wedding is concerned there seems to be only one thing about it which is steeped in mystery, says a New York letter to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. From the time the engagement is entered into up to the hour, not to say the moment, when the ceremony is performed in church in presence of scores of intimate friends and some hundreds of acquaintances, everything connected with the affair, whether directly or indirectly, intimately or remotely, is made the subject of discussion among members of the family, and finds its way out into the general social world to furnish abundant material for comment, for gossip and for criticism, and ultimately for newspaper paragraphs. The bride and her claims to beauty are considered and in many cases even her picture is reproduced. How wealthy her family may be is stated with arithmetical exactness or what purports to be so. How much money the father of the bride will settle on her, and whether or not he has purchased a house for the so-called happy couple is stated with the utmost clearness. At the same time the bridegroom comes in for his share of description. Who, and is, and what family he belongs to, whether or not he is in business, and what are his sources of income are all made known in some way or other to the clubs and drawing-rooms of the town, and after a few days the men and women who congregate in such places are able to put forward an intelligent and interesting digest of the entire situation. Then the wedding cards are received, the wedding presents are inspected and discussed, the wedding march is played, and the whole affair ends with the wedding trip which is the one mystery already referred to.

The wedding trip is now regarded in polite society just as it formerly was, as a necessary part of the proceedings. As soon as Miss Jones has become Mrs. Smith, she is whisked away from her home and from the scenes of her youth, and the world knows nothing of her until she is established again at the home which her husband has made for her. Where she goes after leaving the church is something wholly unknown to her friends and acquaintances. Presumably the immediate relations of the family may be informed on the subject, but if this is so they are in a conspiracy to maintain what may be described as the modern fashionable mystery, that is to say, the hiding place to which the bride and bridegroom disappeared after they have entered into the earliest stages of their matrimonial experiences. A fashionable authority says that it is the custom now for young people just married to repair to the country house of some friend, or, if the wedding is in the winter time, as it very frequently is, they are apt to go to the country house which either the family of the bride or bridegroom is in the habit of occupying during the summer. Whether or not this is true, nobody has any means of knowing, although curiosity on the subject is usually so rampant that it would be necessary in order to satisfy it that the schedule of the trip, along with a railroad time-table, be exhibited with the wedding presents.

This is all very different from what it used to be. Fifteen or twenty years ago a young couple about to be married told their friends long before the marriage occurred exactly where they were going. Niagara Falls was the favorite destination, but in many cases an elaborate trip was projected, including some of the principal cities of the country and the principal show places, precisely as married people arrange, there now long after they have been married and have families growing up around them. At the time mentioned, Washington was a favorite place for people newly married, and their route was so thoroughly advertised that the hotel keepers in Washington and Philadelphia and other towns through which they passed were as well informed of their coming as though the bridal contingent was a theatrical company with dates announced several months ahead. In many cases the bridegroom stayed at hotels that had been familiar to him during his bachelor days, and the proprietors put aside what were known as the bridal chambers for these distinguished guests and insisted on opening wine to celebrate the event, and insisted also on assisting to the celebration by showing them every attention in their power. Ward McAllister once said that he stopped at the Continental hotel in Philadelphia on his wedding trip, and it was all he could do to keep level-headed during the time he was there, and he had a great deal more difficulty in getting away than he had in getting there.

But the wedding trip as announced and carried out after the fashion here described is decidedly a thing of the past. The bride and bridegroom do not announce their plans, and the hotel keepers know nothing about newly married couples coming along, and when they do, make no more effort to entertain them than they do ordinary guests. The bridal chambers, which were once the show rooms of every well-regulated hotel, do not exist now, either in fact or in name. In the old times the bridal chambers were supposed to be the most sumptuously furnished rooms in the house. Under the conditions of modern hotel life there are so many sumptuously furnished rooms, and so great a demand for splendid surroundings and conveniences of all kinds, that it would be impossible to favor people about beginning to walk along the path of life hand in hand. The steamers which make daily trips up the Hudson river and along Long Island sound offered bridal rooms for rent long after the hotels had stopped it; but even the managers here gave it up finally, and no longer describe their rooms in this way. Old hotel men remember the bridal rooms in the hotels over which they once presided, and they tell to-day the numbers of them in some of these old-time hostries. For example, the bridal chambers in the old St. Nicholas hotel in lower Broadway were numbered 6, 9 and 335. These apartments had been held for the purpose indicated by their name during a long course of years, and it was no unusual thing for young men to come along and engage them in advance, and say that their fathers had occupied them when on their wedding trip years before. On the Fall River line of steamboats the term "bridal" was dropped two years ago, and the rooms are now called "parlor staterooms." One of the handsomest staterooms to be found on any boat is room 116 on the Connecticut. This has a brass double bed, with bamboo easy chairs and is hung with richly colored portieres and other drapings and arranged for parlor and bed room.

The secrecy observed by the brides and bridegrooms concerning their wedding trip, and the fact that hotel keepers and steamboat men no longer have bridal chambers would seem to indicate a distinct advance in good taste and attention to the proprieties of life. It is scarcely possible to conceive of a situation when young married people would consent to put themselves practically on exhibition, and occupy magnificent apartments set apart from those occupied by the ordinary run of people and announce in advance the programme of their progress through the different cities and resorts of the country. This is an exhibition and a very ostentatious and theatrical one at that. "Happy couples" were putting into the hands of the people every means of identification it was possible for them to put there, and they were engaging in advance the attention that would be ordinarily given to the actors and actresses engaged in presenting an English solo

drama through the country. They were making it certain that when they entered the dining room they would be pointed out as people who had been recently tied in a matrimonial way, and that when they went out to drive the small boy would point them out and attract the attention of his marble-playing and kite-flying companions. That this was loud, not saying vulgar, certainly admits of no doubt. A very interesting essay could certainly be written on the necessity and desirability of a wedding trip. As to the necessity for the newly married couple to trot around from one large city to another, and visit the show places in each town, and undergo the fatigue of sightseeing, that necessity does not exist. One would suppose that a marriage was a sufficiently exciting event in itself to any ordinary human being without piling on top of that the excitement attendant on a rapid progress through the country, and the inspection of lots of new things. But, if the necessity of the wedding trip is admitted, certainly the more quietly it is done the better, and it is fortunate and eminently satisfactory to think that the tendency nowadays is all in this direction.

There is one story to the interesting effect that in some cases not even the modern well-bred bride and bridegroom know where they are going. The matter is all arranged, it is said, by the best man. After the ceremony is put into the hands of the bridegroom a schedule of arrangements that have been made on his behalf, with the necessary railroad tickets. This is doubtless a pleasant suggestion by the fact of wedding trips being kept so closely a secret, as is now the practice. If there are really any brides and bridegrooms nowadays who years for their newly found happiness to be made a subject for comment and observation in the hotels and railroad conveyances of the land, they will be gratified probably without making any special effort. There seems to be something about a newly married couple which is unmistakable, and only the brides who want to conceal the fact of their bridehood will be disappointed. Their effort to impress people with the fact that they have been married several years instead of several days usually meets with disastrous failure. The clerks in hotels and the porters in drawing room cars have been frequently asked how it is that they are able to distinguish newly-married people with so much certainty. The porters and railroad conductors on the cars declare that it is owing almost altogether to the constant and tender devotion paid by the man to the woman, which is noticeable so far as young husbands are concerned, but with experienced husbands it is noticeably absent.

In answer to a question of this sort the hotel clerk has usually lots of stories to tell. He says that he is able to spot a newly married couple partly because of their new clothes and partly because of their new baggage. Then the groom is apt to give the situation away. He will drive up to the ladies' entrance of the hotel and leave his wife in the parlor while he goes to arrange for a room, and will engage a single room wholly unmindful of the lady whom he has just left. He will not only engage a single room, but when the register is presented to him he will register his own name, and his forgetfulness is not impressed on him in any way until the hall boy conducts himself and his wife to a small room with accommodations for a single person. Frequently, before the situation has flashed on him, the hall boy is down in the office reporting the matter to the clerk, who becomes indignant at once, and is only pacified when explanations are forthcoming. A hotel clerk in town tells a story of a man who not only forgot to register his wife's name, but was so embarrassed that he was not able to register even his own name. Finally the clerk was compelled to tell him who he was, and he explained that he had been very busy and that would account for his mental aberration.

One of the funniest wedding trips that probably ever occurred was one which the couple finished by a trip back to Boston over the Fall River line. The bride couple had started out with what they considered money enough to see them through, but had spent a great deal more in New York and in other places than they had counted on, and finally, after paying their hotel bill in New York, found themselves with just enough money to pay fares back on the Fall River boat. As evening approached they discussed their situation and what they should best do. Finally the groom courageously stated the case to an officer, to whom the idea of a young man getting "financially busted" on his wedding trip was an entirely novel one, and he became so much interested from the mingled humor and pathos of the situation that he offered to give up his own room to the couple, and did so. When the groom got back to Boston he sent the obliging officer the money equivalent for the state-room accommodation he had so obligingly made over to him.

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Miss Juch as Marguerite.

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Edith Hamby, plaintiff, vs. Harry Hamby defendant.

The state of Montana send greeting to the above named defendant:

You are hereby required to appear in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the district court of the first judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Lewis and Clark, and to answer the complaint filed therein, within ten days exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons, if served within this county; or, if served out of this county, but in this district, within twenty days; otherwise within forty days, or judgment by default will be taken against you, according to the prayer of said complaint.

The said action is brought to obtain a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between plaintiff and defendant, giving to plaintiff the custody of said parties, and restoring the plaintiff to her maiden name, Edith Luther, free to remarry and otherwise as she may see fit.

And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer the said complaint, as above required, the said plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

Given under my hand and the seal of the district court of the first judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Lewis and Clark, this 11th day of March, 1890, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

(Signed) JOHN BEAN, Clerk.

By H. R. THOMPSON, Deputy Clerk.

Massey Bullard, Att'y for Plaintiff.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE—THE PARTNER ship heretofore existing under the firm name of Tietjen & Saxe is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Fred Saxe having purchased the interest of Henry Tietjen in said firm. He will continue business at the old stand, and pay all debts and collect all accounts due said firm.

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